

EVALUATE YOUR MINISTRY?

1 Cor 4:1-5

1. Who is he?
2. What is he to do?
3. How is he evaluated?

1 Corinthians 4:1

So account of us: regard; view; evaluate; examine; interrogate .

I. Who we are?

A. Ministers of Christ.

Under rower, galley slave: slave who rows in Roman Galley ships.
Bottom level of ship.

Lowest, unrespected, common and hated of all slaves.

Obeys slave master's orders implicitly.

One Master-- Lord Jesus Christ.

Word later mean: assistant, subordinate, helper, synagogue attendant (Lk 4:20).

John Mark: Acts 13:5

Gospel preachers: Luke 1:2

Paul: Acts 20:34; 26:16

Willing to do lowest, menial, servile task.

Attitude: I am no better than you.

We're not captains...only galley slaves

We're no greater than anyone else.

B. Stewards

Steward: slave in charge of master's affairs.

House manager

Administrator

Superintendent

In charge of property, fields, finances, meals, and other servants under owner's direction.

I.e. Joseph

Balance: A little person with big responsibility

Attitude: Slave

Responsibility: Steward.

Gromaki: *As a minister Paul was to serve and do. As a steward, he was to protect and to guide.*

...of the mysteries of God.

Responsible for secret purposes of God.

Job: explain secrets which natural man can't comprehend

The awesome principles and truths that help us live for God

1 Corinthians 2:7

II. What are we to do?

1 Corinthians 4:2

Be faithful.

Faithful: Trustworthy, loyal, dependable, reliable, and consistent.

Grom: *Faithfulness involves doing all that the master has commanded, doing it according to the master's method, and doing it in the assigned time.*

The sphere of stewardship may vary but the quality never does.

Luke 12:48

Required: not optional. No choice! Accountability.

In stewards: Life message. Internal, not flash in pan.

Unfaithful man in steward's position--ruin ministry!

Highest premium character quality: faithfulness!

1 Corinthians 4:17; Colossians 1:7; Colossians 4:7

Mac: *Stewardship & servanthood are inseparable from faithfulness. An unfaithful servant or an untrustworthy steward is a self-contradiction.*

III. How is he evaluated?

1 Corinthians 4:3

Care less about evaluation of me.

If bring me before court not make much difference in my ministry.

I'm not sure I can trust my own judgment.

Gromaki: *Approval or disapproval of his stewardship did not rest upon their acceptance or rejection of his ministry.*

...judged of you: criticized, scrutinized, put on trial.

Barnes: *Dear as you are to me as a church and a people, yet my main desire is not to secure your esteem or to avoid your censure, but to please my master, and secure his approbation....Human judges, even the most well-intentioned, are likely to be mistaken in many of their conclusions.*

Mac: *We can benefit greatly from the counsel of a wise, spiritual friend, and sometimes even from the criticisms of unbelievers. But no human being is qualified to determine the legitimacy, quality, or faithfulness of our work for the Lord. We are not even qualified to determine those things for ourselves. Matters of outward sin are to be judged as 1 Timothy 5:19-21 indicates. But*

apart from the discipline of sinning servants, we can make no absolutely accurate judgment as to the faithfulness of heart, mind, and body of any servant of God

...yea, I judge not mine own self.

Not a Christian alive--able to properly and effectively evaluate own spiritual life.

I know that in my ministry I do have blind spots.

1 Corinthians 4:4

For I know nothing by myself; I know of nothing in life ...in violation of God's will and Word

Clear conscience.

...yet am I not hereby justified: doesn't mean completely right.

May be inconsistencies in life.

Wiersbe: *There can be a fine line between a clear conscience and a self-righteous attitude, so we must beware.*

Only one make right estimate/evaluation of ministry is God!

...but he that judgeth me is the Lord. Lord examine me and determine what right.

God searches heart! 2 Corinthians 10:18

1 Corinthians 4:5

Event: Judgment Seat of Christ. Romans 14:10,12

1 Cor 2:15

Bring to light: Bring out in the light...make it so can be seen.

Hidden things of darkness: secret designs, schemes, plans, motives.

Make manifest: Render apparent, declare, show

Counsels of the hearts: volitions, purposes, advises

Mt Hen: *all the secret inclinations, purposes, and intentions of the hidden man of the heart*

1 Corinthians 4:5

Praise: commendation; rewards

So What?

Quit playing God!

Quit placing selves as judge of people's motives.

Realize – only God see thoughts and intents of heart.

Only God see hidden things of darkness...counsels of heart.

- I. Who am I?
 - a. Minister of Christ – under-rower...therefore serve.
 - b. Steward – supervisor
- II. What's my job description? Be faithful
- III. How am I evaluated
 - Not by people
 - Not by myself
 - But by God
 - He will bring to light the hidden things of darkness.
 - He will make manifest the counsels of the heart